

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 12 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 14 to read as follows:

14. (amended) A method of inhibiting hepatitis C virus polymerase which comprises administering to a subject in need of such inhibition an effective amount of (A) a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, or (B) a compound of formula (I) which is derivatised at one or more of the 4-hydroxy, 5-hydroxy or 6-carboxy groups, a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Please add new claim 15 as follows:

15. (new) A method of treating or preventing an illness due to hepatitis C virus, which comprises administering to a subject suffering from the condition a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of (A) a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, or (B) a compound of formula (I) which is derivatised at one or more of the 4-hydroxy, 5-hydroxy or 6-carboxy groups, a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

REMARKS

Claim 12 has been canceled, claim 14 has been amended, and claim 15 is new. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-11 and 13-15 will be pending. Examination of the application as amended herein is requested.

Use claim 12 has been canceled.

Method claim 14 as originally filed has been divided into two method claims - amended claim 14 and new claim 15.